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Eva Hall to Fanny Jones, 2 September 1901

Riverslea
44, Mount St
Perth
Sept 2nd 1901

My dear Fanny

Many thanks for your very welcome letter received a few weeks since & which I have answered in my mind many times. I am leaving Perth tomorrow morning by S S *Bullara* for Cossack & so will be among our own people about the end of the week. I have had such an enjoyable time I feel quite sorry to go & yet of course I am longing to see the dear old brothers again, I wish they were doing as well as you seem to have heard, I think sometimes Aunt Hannah wears her *rose* coloured spectacles, however they are really more comfortably circumstanced than they have ever been, but then you can hardly imagine how they have roughed it formerly.

About the Heppingstones — well I hear they have postponed their visit, which probably means they will will never take the trip, but if they should, you need not hesitate about dear old Arthur Heppingstone — of course he has not the polish of a Frenchman, but I consider him one of nature's true gentlemen, always amiable & unselfish & considerate for other people & quiet, dignified & gentle in manner. I am very fond of Frances, but when she becomes excited her husband's behaviour is a pleasing contrast & relief, but am sure you would like them both if you meet them.

I thought I had told you that my engagement is a thing of the past, but I always feel after saying that much that there is nothing more to be said or worth mentioning on the subject.

I am sending you a photo by this mail, I don't think it is a very nice one, but it is certainly much better than the caricature you have of me & I hope you will destroy the first.

Do write soon & then I shall answer promptly & tell you how I found them all in the "never never country" & how I like frizzling again. I do wish I could get over to see you again, the same money I pay for a single fare to Cossack wd get me a return ticket to Melbourne, but then I'd have nothing in hand to spend & that would never do, or else I would have managed it, so I am going north again to make some more money.

I am so glad to hear that Dear Auntie keeps so well, it is a blessing indeed at her time of life. Aunt Dora too is quite wonderful in that way, she never seems to ail & is so sprightly & nimble in getting about, last week she & I paid our second visit to the Asylum to see poor Alice Hester & Auntie was the first to suggest *running* to catch our train. Poor Alice! we interviewed the Matron & satisfied ourselves that she is kindly treated & well cared for in a way, also found out that under the new regulations we can make her a little more comfortable as the patients are allowed to wear warmer & better clothing if their friends chose to send or arrange for it & I will get Rege to do this, also to see that she has fruit during the summer months.

I suppose Gerald impressed you as he does all his relatives, he is insufferably conceited & utterly selfish — one evening in his company generally satisfies us for some time, still just to meet he amuses me. I hear from the Blackwood that his engagement to Miss Forrest is broken off & that he is going to Sydney again & then to [?Eng].

We enjoyed the Royal visit very much & I had invitations to most of the functions. Perth surpassed itself in the way of decorations etc & the weather was perfect.

Give dear Aunt & cousin Bob my love & ask some of George's girls to write to me sometimes, Cossack or Roebourne will find me. I am so glad Fanny is good at dressmaking, wouldn't she & I build some confections if we could combine forces?

Goodnight dear with much love & always kind thoughts of your goodness to me during my visit.

Believe me
ever yr affect cousin
Eva M Hall